

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

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March 29, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE
HOPE AND RECOVERY: EMPOWERING OUR LIVES CONFERENCES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to expend funds to host and conduct three Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences and workshops to be held on June 8, 2011; June 21, 2011; and July 27, 2011, to address stigma and discrimination issues related to mental illness.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host and conduct the Esperanza Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conference to be held on June 8, 2011, at an estimated cost of \$54,000, and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with the Downtown Los Angeles Sheraton Hotel for space and catering at an estimated cost of \$35,000, fully funded by State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue.
2. Authorize DMH to expend funds to host and conduct the Asian Pacific Islander Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conference to be held on June 21, 2011, at an estimated cost of \$66,000, and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with the Wilshire Grand Hotel for space and catering services at an estimated cost of \$37,000, fully funded by State MHSA revenue.
3. Authorize DMH to expend funds to host and conduct the Hope & Recovery: Empowering Our

Lives Conference in English to be held on July 27, 2011, at an estimated cost of \$60,000, and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with the Downtown Los Angeles Sheraton Hotel for space and catering services at an estimated cost of \$40,000, fully funded by State MHSA revenue.

4. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to sign substantially similar Agreements with similar conferences sites for catering services for five subsequent annual Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences through Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 not to exceed a total amount of \$70,000 per event, with a total maximum per year amount of \$210,000, subject to review and approval by County Counsel and notice to your Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Since 1997, DMH has sponsored the Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences to provide strategies for recovery from mental illness to the general consumer community and those representing underserved groups.

In order to combat stigma and discrimination, the State of California released funding to the counties under the MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project to allow counties to initiate activity on three statewide initiatives, including reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and addressing discrimination issues affecting persons with mental illness.

The MHSA PEI Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project includes funding for conferences, thus DMH will conduct the Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences under a revised focus specifically addressing stigma reduction and discrimination issues. In a letter dated March 30, 2009, the State approved the DMH plan for its MHSA PEI Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project, including funding for the conferences.

Two out of the three conferences will be targeted to underserved communities, Latinos and Asian Pacific Islanders, and will be delivered in their threshold languages. The third conference will be conducted in English.

DMH will enter into Agreements with the three venues following Board approval. Confirmation, in the form of a deposit, will be made to ensure the reservation of space. Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to execute Agreements with the Downtown Los Angeles Sheraton Hotel and The Wilshire Grand Hotel to guarantee space, catering services, and other necessities for the conferences and provide DMH with the necessary authority to expend funds in support of the conferences.

Approval of the recommended actions will also enable DMH to continue the annual conferences in future years, only after review and approval by County Counsel and notification to CEO and your Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal 4, Health and Mental Health.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated cost of all three conferences is approximately \$180,000 fully funded by State MHSA revenue and is included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Final Adopted Budget and has been requested in the Department's FY 2011-12 Recommended Budget. The final cost will be determined by the actual number of attendees, which is expected to range up to 750 attendees for the Asian Pacific Islanders and Esperanza Hope & Recovery Conferences and up to 600 attendees for the English Hope & Recovery Conference.

The budget for these three conferences includes printing of brochures; programs; meeting rooms; food and beverage services; audio and visual services; parking for presenters, exhibitors, and select individuals participating in the conferences; honorariums for presenters; plenary speaker travel and room accommodations; and other miscellaneous costs.

There is no net County cost associated with this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Hope and Recovery Conferences have been presented annually for 13 years with approximately 750 attendees for the Asian Pacific Islanders and Esperanza Hope and Recovery Conferences and up to 600 attendees for the English Hope and Recovery Conference attending each year. The conferences are open to mental health clients with special outreach to board and care programs, sober living hospitalized patients, and full service partnership clients. In addition, parents and family members of clients and mental health staff attend the conferences to ensure support and recovery.

A committee, composed of consumers, contract providers and DMH administrative staff, determined that the Downtown Los Angeles Sheraton Hotel and the Wilshire Grand Hotel were the preferred locations based on availability, size of accommodations, and ease of both auto and public transportation for presenters, volunteers, employees, and participants. In lieu of posting on the web, DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the conferences.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The conferences will benefit the mental health system by empowering consumers, reducing stigma, and promoting wellness and recovery.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mg Southard", with a stylized, flowing script.

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

MJS:DM:AB:tdb

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors